

## Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /097 W  
----- 030948

R 271118 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8480

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2459

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC POLITICS, OPPOSITION BOYCOTT OF  
ASSEMBLY UNDERWAY

REF: ISLAMABAD 2386

SUMMARY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS CONTINUED CONSIDERATION  
OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION DESPITE OPPOSITION BOYCOTT, MAKING  
RAPID PROGRESS IN ABSENCE LATTER' S DELAYING TACTICS.  
BHUTTO, MEANWHILE, HAS OFFERED DISCUSS OPPOSITION' S  
CONSTITUTIONAL DEMANDS IF THEY WILL ABANDON BOYCOTT.  
OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN HAS REJECTED PRESIDENT' S OFFER,  
INSISTING ON DISCUSSIONS BEFORE LIFTING BOYCOTT.  
END SUMMARY

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RESUMED CONSIDERATION DRAFT  
CONSTITUTION MARCH 26 ON FIRST DAY OF PROCLAIMED  
UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT ( UDF) BOYCOTT, WITH BULK OF  
OPPOSITION ABSENT INCLUDING ALL FIVE MNAS FROM  
BALUCHISTAN. WITHOUT OPPOSITION TO DELAY PROCEEDINGS,  
ASSEMBLY BRIEFLY DISCUSSED AND APPROVED MORE THAN 40  
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CLAUSES. IN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS GOODWILL GESTURE TOWARD ABSENT OPPOSITION, ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP DEFERRED ACTION ON SEVERAL CLAUSES OVER WHICH OPPOSITION HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED SPECIAL CONCERN.

2. LAW MINISTER PIRZADA ANNOUNCED TO ASSEMBLY THAT BHUTTO HAD AGREED MAKE OFFER TO OPPOSITION IN EFFORT RESOLVE DEADLOCK. IN ADDITION TO DEFERRING DEBATE ON SENSITIVE CLAUSES, PRESIDENT WAS PREPARED DINATIONAL CAPITAL. HE DENIED THE ASSERTION THAT THE MILITARY BASES IN THE CZ PROTECT THE OCEANIC WATERWAY AND CALLED THE PRETEXT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTHERN COMMAND IN THE CANAL ZONE -- THAT OF DEFENDING THE CANAL -- COMPLETELY FALSE . THE GENERAL SAID HE VALUED SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE LATIN AMERICANS AS VERY SIGNIFICANT, AS WELL AS THAT OF THE REST OF THE WORLD. TORRIJOS SAID THE US VETO WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND AGAINST ALL THOSE WHO STILL SUFFER FROM COLONIALISM AND MENTIONED THE STRUGGLES OF OPPRESSED PEOPLE, CITING VIETNAM AS AN EXAMPLE.

3. ON MARCH 24 TORRIJOS ADDRESSED THE FEDERATION OF PANAMANIAN STUDENTS AT A CEREMONY IN SANTIAGO DE VERAGUAS CLOSING THEIR LITERACY CAMPAIGN. HE SAID THAT MORE THAN ANY DECLARATION HE CHERISHES THE WELCOME GIVEN HIM BY THE MOST NATIONALIST, REBELLIOUS WORTHY YOUTH IN AMERICAN AND PRAISED THEM FOR TEACHING THE ALPHABET OF THE SOCIAL CRY AGAINST THE LATIFUNDISTS AND THE IMPERIALISTS. THE ONLY DEFECT HE NOTED IN THIS GENERATION IS THAT IT' S TOO WILLING TO SACRIFICE ITSELF FOR A JUST CAUSE: HE CALLED IT, " THIS GREAT WILLINGNESS TO DEMAND THEIR RIGHTS AND TO OFFER THE ONLY THING THEY HAVE-- THEIR LIVES -- TO TEAR DOWN THE STRUCTURES THAT ARE STRANGLING OUR DOMESTIC FATHERLAND". HE NOTED MARTI' S DICTUM THAT TIMING OF ANY MOVE IS ESSENTIAL. THE GENERAL SAID " THERE IS A SACRED PRINCIPLE WHICH SAYS WE SHOULD NOT TELEGRAPH OUR PUNCHES; AND THE SMALLER A COUNTRY, THE MORE IT HAS TO KEEP ITS MOVES A SECRET IN ORDER TO PREVENT THOSE WHO INSIST ON KEEPING A COLONY FROM HAVING ENOUGH TIME TO REACT" . THIS WAS HIS EXPLANATION AS TO WHY HE HAD NOT TOLD THE STUDENTS EARLIER OF HIS PLANS FOR THE SC. TORRIJOS EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS CONSULTING WITH THE NATION LEST FUTURE

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GENERATIONS ASK " WHY DID YOU NOT CONSULT US? WHO AUTHORIZED YOU TO GAMBLE WITH THE NATION' S FUTURE JUST BECAUSE YOU CANNOT STAND TO SEE THAT FLAB?" TALKING OF THE VETO , HE SAID " WE WANTED TO SEE IF THEY HAD THE COURAGE TO SAY IT PUBLICALLY AND THEY DID". PLEADING FOR UNITY, THE GENERAL SAID " WE ARE NOT GOING TO CARRY OUT A BADLY ORGANIZED STRUGGLE WITHOUT DEFENSES. NOW WE ARE GOING TO STRUGGLE WITH MILITARY SUPPORT." HE SAID THAT THE GOP WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH THE 505 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT FURTHER STEPS AND WOULD BE ANNOUNCING THESE AS IT PROCEEDS IN ITS EFFORTS. HE ENDED BY STATING " LET US NOT BE OVER- CONFIDENT. THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE IS A HARD ONE WHICH DEMANDS GREAT SACRIFICES. BUT CONCERNING THE AMOUNT OF SACRIFICE AND THE TIME FOR IT, I WANT YOU TO GIVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE THE ONE TO DECIDE. THE ONLY THING FOR WHICH I CRITICIZE CHRIST, THAT GREAT SOCIAL REDEEMER FOLLOWED BY MANY MEN AND DEFIED BY OTHERS, WAS THAT HE DIED WITHOUT KILLING."

4. TORRIJOS ALSO APPEARED IN DIVISA ON MARCH 25 WHERE HE DELIVERED A SPEECH TO EDUCATORS WHICH CONCENTRATED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, AND ANNOUNCED A NEW SCALE OF TEACHERS' SALARIES.

5) TORRIJOS AND PANAMANIAN PRESS ARE EUPHORIC OVER OUT-COME UNSC MEETING AND US VETO. TORRIJOS IS CONVENIENTLY IGNORING THAT US VETOED UNSC RESOLUTION BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE SET UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT OF DICTATING TO ONE OF PARTIES THE TERMS OF A BILATERAL SETTLEMENT. AS CALI SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO VOTE FOR THE JUST ASPIRATIONS OF PANAMA. TORRIJOS FEELS UNSC RESOLUTION AND SPEECHES OF OTHER COUNTRIES PROVIDE SANCTION FOR WHATEVER HE MAY DECIDE. HE IS FORMULATING WHAT THAT WOULD BE AS HE TRAVELS AROUND THE COUNTRY CONSULTING THE PEOPLE. TORRIJOS CONTINUES TO BE CAREFULLY ENIGMATIC ABOUT HIS FUTURE PLANS. EVEN THE PRECISE NATURE OF THE CONSULTATIONS ON WHICH HE IS NOW EMBARKING ARE NOT CLEAR. WE DOUBT HE REALLY INTENDS TO CALL A PLEBISCITE AS HIS NEXT MOVE REGARDING CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, THOUGH HE DOES SEEM TO BE HEADING TOWARD SOME SORT OF FORMAL MEETING OF THE 505 MEMBER CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO RATIFY WHATEVER COURSE OF ACTION EMERGES FROM HIS CURRENT

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CONSULTATIONS. THE GENERAL' S STATEMENTS REGARDING VIOLENCE ARE NOW BECOMING MORE PRONOUNCED. IN THE PAST, FOR EXAMPLE AT THE OCT. 11, 1971 CEREMONY, TORRIJOS' REMARKS ON VIOLENT

CONFRONTATION WERE CONDITIONED ON UNSUCCESSFUL TREATY TALKS;  
BUT HE INDICATED HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS OF TALKS.  
NOW HIS ALLUSIONS TO VIOLENCE DO NOT HAVE CONDITIONS, THOUGH  
HE INSISTS THAT HE MUST DETERMINE THE TIMING OF ANY POSSIBLE  
ACTS. IN OTHER FORA ( REFTEL) TORRIJOS HAS INDICATED  
THAT HE IS NO LONGER OPTISMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF  
NEGOTIATIONS.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** PINT, PK  
**To:** NEA  
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO KABUL  
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